

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 /097 W
-----028145 060521Z /16

R 051658Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS URGE FIRMNESS AND REVEAL CONCERN ABOUT
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ROME 8109

1. IN THE WAKE OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SECRETARY CRAXI'S
INITIATIVE TO OBTAIN MORO'S RELEASE AND THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC (DC) LEADERSHIP'S MAY 3 STATEMENT, THE ITALIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY'S (PCI) DIRECTORATE MET ON MAY 4 TO REVIEW
THE CURRENT SITUATION. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING,
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THE DIRECTORATE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION REITERATING QUOTE THE
LINE OF DEMOCRATIC FIRMNESS END QUOTE WHICH CORRESPONDS
TO THE VIEWS OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE ITALIAN
POPULATION. THE STATEMENT ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A
LINE DOES NOT EXCLUDE HUMANITARIAN APPEALS AND INITIATIVES
PROVIDED THAT THE STATE RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR A FULL
AND IMPARTIAL RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND FOR EXISTING

LAWS. THE DIRECTORATE RESOLUTION ALSO POINTS TO THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN LOCATING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MORO KIDNAPPING, GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF QUOTE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AND EVEN ELEMENTS OF DISTRUST THAT DISTURB THE SPRIT OF THE CITIZENS. END QUOTE. FINALLY, THE RESOLUTION POINTS TO THE NEED IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR CONCERTED GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CONFRONTING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION.

2. THE DIRECTORATE MEETING OCCURRED AMIDST THE APPEARANCE OF SIGNS OF PCI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE NEGATIVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENTS WHICH COULD ARISE FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION. TWO EDITORIALS IN THE PARTY DAILY L'UNITA (MAY 3 AND 4), AN ARTICLE IN THE MAY 5 ISSUE OF THE PARTY WEEKLY RINASCITA, INTERVIEWS WITH DIRECTORATE MEMBER MACALUSO PUBLISHED MAY 5 IN LA REPUBBLICA AND CIRRIERE DELLA SERA, AND FINALLY THE DIRECTORATE RESOLUTION ALL POINT IN THIS DIRECTION. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE PCI INTENDS TO PURSUE THREE OBJECTIVES: (A) TO IMPEDE ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE BRIGATE ROSSE; (B) TO OBTAIN AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KIDNAPPING; AND (C) TO INSURE THAT POLITICAL LIFE IS NOT PARALYZED BY ATTENTION TO THE KIDNAPPING.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PCI IS POINTING QUOTE TO PROTECTED SANCTUARIES END QUOTE WHICH IT PERCEIVES AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING EITHER BEHIND THE KIDNAPPING OR AS UTILIZING IT TO BREAK UP THE PROCESS OF UNITY AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPING ANDWHICH HAS LED TO THE ENTRY OF THE PCI INTO A FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. WHILE THE COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING MACALUSO, HAVE REMAINED ELUSIVE WHEN ASKED TO BE SPECIFIC AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THESE FORCES, THEY SUGGEST THAT THEY COME FROM ELEMENTS CONNECTED WITH ANTI-COMMUNISTS, WITH LEFT-WING SUBVERSIVES, AND WITH OLD CENTERS OF POWER IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD AND IN THE NATIONAL BUREAUCRACY.

4. COMMENT. WHILE THE PCI IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO VEIL ITS MESSAGE, WE BELIEVE IT IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE PSI LEADERSHIP, REFLECTING A PCI SUSPICION THAT CRAXI IS ATTEMPTING TO CAPITALIZE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF LEADING HIS PARTY BACK INTO A COALITION WITH THE DC TO THE POLITICAL DETRIMENT OF THE PCI. IT ALSO SERVES AS A WARNING TO THE DC THAT THE PCI IS CAREFULLY MONITORING ITS POLITICAL BEHAVIOR AND AS A SIGN TO THE BASE THAT THE PCI LEADERSHIP IS ON THE ALERT FOR ANY POLITICAL INTRIGUES WHICH MIGHT NEGATE THE ADVANCES THE PARTY HAS SCORED SINCE THE 1976 ELECTIONS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME08276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0532
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780588/aaaacxkl.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95753aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 8109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2777142
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNISTS URGE FIRMNESS AND REVEAL CONCERN ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95753aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014